

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3909

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: MUZOREWA COMMENTS FOLLOWING RHODESIAN
ELECTIONS

REF: CAPE TOWN 381, PRETORIA 2684

1. REPORT HERE OF INTERVIEW WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA, LEADER
OF ANC, BY SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST ANTHONY RIDER INDICATES
SETBACK FOR IAN SMITH'S PLANS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT
BY MEANS OF NATIONAL MEETING (INDABA) OF RHODESIAN GOVERN-
MENT WITH AFRICAN CHIEFS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BLACK
OPINION (REFTEL).

2. MUZOREWA REPORTED AS SAYING, "WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT GOING
TO THE INDABA UNLESS IT IS PROPERLY CALLED AS A CONSTITU-
TIONAL CONVENTION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT PRESENT." HE FURTHER STATED, "I AM NOT HAVING
ANY TALKS AT ALL WITHOUT DR. EDSON SITHOLE BEING PRESENT."

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3. COMMENTING ON RHODESIAN FRONT ELECTION VICTORY, MUZOREWA

SAID WHITE VOTERS POSSESSED BY "DEMON OF FEAR" AND "HAVE VOTED FOR SPEEDING UP CONFRONTATION OF RACES. THEY HAVE VOTED TO RECRUIT AFRICAN YOUTHS FOR GUERRILLA WARFARE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PREVENT BY SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION."

4. MUZOREWA SAID WHITES WOULD BE FORCED TO ABANDON COURSE THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING. HE SAID, "A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IS WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE WHITES IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL BE CRUCIAL. WE WILL FIND OURSELVES IN THE MOST COMPLICATED RACIAL SITUATION AND PERHAPS THE WORST STATE OF RACE RELATIONS THE COUNTRY HAS KNOWN. WE WILL WATCH THE RHODESIAN FRONT DIG ITS OWN GRAVE BY ITS OUT-DATED RACIALISTIC POLICIES WHILE OUR FREEDOM MUSAMS FROM ALL FRONTS."

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF DETENTION OF SITHOLE, ANC'S PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION RE FURTHER TALKS WITH SMITH GOVERNMENT AND EVOLVING SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, BISHOP MUZOREWA'S STONGLY WORDED STATEMENTS DO NOT COME AS ANY SURPRISE. CERTAINLY THEY UNDERLINE EXTREME DIFFICULTY FACING SMITH IN WHATEVER HE PLANS TO DO TO REACH ACCORD WITH RHODESIAN BLACKS IN ORDER ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WITH BRITAIN. OVERWHELMING SUPPORT GIVEN TO RULING PARTY BY WHITE VOTERS HAS APPARENTLY RESULTED IN NEARLY COMPLETE EROSION OF HOPE ON PART OF MUZOREWA FOR PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN RHODESIA. HURD.

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